



EUROPEAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY

Call for nominees : ENS HSC PhD Award 2026

The European Nuclear Society (ENS), as a Learned Society, organizes its annual Award to recognize most outstanding recent PhD thesis. The ENS High Scientific Council (HSC), the Scientific Body composed of scientists of high repute from 19 countries, acts as the Selection Committee for this prestigious Award.

ENS PhD Award serves as an added value to existing PhD contests organized in many Nuclear Societies, by allowing the winners to participate in a Europe-wide competition.

1. Criteria of candidate nomination by Nuclear Societies

- Each ENS Member Society has the right to nominate one candidate. Societies that are not in the position to organize a PhD contest locally, may nominate a candidate without establishing a national Award process.
- Contest is open for candidates who have obtained a PhD in the field of nuclear science and engineering from a University of a country affiliated to ENS.
- Only for candidates who obtained their PhD degree maximum 36 months before the deadline of the nomination by the ENS Member Society.

2. Documents to be provided on behalf of the candidate (in English)

An email entitled '*ENS PhD Award Nomination COUNTRY NAME*' should be sent by a Nuclear Society representative, containing the **documentation of the nominee**:

1. CV, including a contact email and phone number of the candidate
2. A copy of the Ph.D. Diploma/Certificate showing the date it was awarded
3. A recommendation letter (the letter should introduce the PhD work and highlight its significance in the research field: originality, importance and impact of the results)
4. An extended summary of the PhD thesis
5. A copy of at least one accepted publication directly related to the candidate's PhD studies

3. Process and dates

- Call is open from **10 December 2025** with deadline of **13 March 2026**.
- In **April 2026** the HSC will select four shortlisted candidates. The HSC will apply commonly accepted **Selection Criteria** in the process (see **Annex**).
- By **30 April 2026** candidates will be informed about the selection process results.
- In **November 2026** the four shortlisted candidates will present their PhD thesis' results to the HSC in one of European cities. The Shortlisted candidates are expected to personally attend the audition. Member Societies should support the candidates in obtaining funding from their Institution or facilitate the travel expenses.

4. Awards

- **All the candidates** nominated to the ENS HSC PhD Award will receive a **Certificate of Appreciation** for their achievements in the national contests.
- **The four finalists** will get an offer of a publication free of charge of an article related to their Thesis in the [Open Access Journal EPJ-N](#).
- **The winner of the ENS HSC PhD Award** will be offered a Prize money of 2000€. An Award ceremony will be organised in conjunction with one of the ENS or Member Society conferences.

Annex

Selection Criteria of HSC PhD Award

Part I: Selection of four shortlisted candidates by HSC:

a. Originality and innovation of research

- The candidate should present innovative research work in the field of nuclear science and engineering.
- Experimental works with real industrial applications will be encouraged.
- National and international collaborations promoting the collaboration and knowledge sharing will be examined.

b. Potential impact in the nuclear field

- The candidate should show the impact of his work in the nuclear field. The candidate has to highlight how his findings are related to state of the art, presenting the novelty of his research and possible future applications.
- The number and the impact of publications will be evaluated using standard indicators and metrics.
- Nominations or awards for other national or international competitions will be taken into account.

c. Career potential in the nuclear sector

- The candidate should demonstrate interesting in pursuing a career in the field of nuclear science and engineering. In particular, the skills and knowledge acquired during the PhD should be integrated into his/her current role.

Part II: Presentation of the finalist entries :

d. Quality of the oral presentation

- The candidate should produce an interesting and visually appealing presentation. The selection of photos and graphs and the use of presentation tools should be effective, appropriate and accurate.

- The candidate has to deliver the presentation with clarity and confidence. All the sections of the presentation have to be connected in a creative way. The presentation needs to show a well-defined structure and scope of the talk.

e. Capacity to interact with a scientific audience

- The candidate should be able to interact with a scientific audience and answer with confidence to the questions. The candidate is able to increase the knowledge level of the audience.
- Active participation in events to promote the use of nuclear technologies will be recognised. In particular, the candidate should demonstrate his contribution to encouraging young people to pursue a career in the nuclear field.